

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given to the Official Action of May 9, 2005 and reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 2nd paragraph.

The claims 1-5, 7 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Popplewell.

Claims 1-4, 6-7 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Ulam.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Ishii.

Claims 1-6 and 8-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Winter in view of Oleksiak.

With regard to the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph, the Examiner considers the term “cold plating” not to have any universally recognized definition in the art. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner and it is submitted that the disclosure clearly sets forth the intended meaning of the cold plating of the core layer. As the term implies and as explained in the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4, the outer layer is applied to the core layer under cold conditions of rolling to achieve a roll-bonding which causes a planar connection of the metals in the manner of a fusion while bringing about the advantageous effect that during heating the thermal expansion can occur only to an extent corresponding to that of the hard metal plating layer. Namely, by such cold plating the planar interface between the core layer and the outer metal layer provides adequate bonding so that they act as a composite in which both will

expand at the same rate when heated. Typically the two layers are rolled between two rolls exerting perpendicular rolling force onto the metal layers to effect a bonding thereof. It is respectfully submitted that the disclosure in the specification will be clear to those skilled in the art and the limits of the claims will be well supported to enable the scope of the claims to be readily understandable.

The rejection of the claims on the cited art is essentially based on a comparison of the broad language of the claims with regard to various examples of composite material known in the art. However, the claimed separator plate combines two specific components, namely, the core layer and the outer metal layer in a combination to achieve a result which can not be found in the cited art. In particular, the separator plate of the invention is adapted for use in the production of PCB plates in which the separator plate performs a unique function due to its construction and this is not attributable to the cited art. In this regard, claim 1 has been amended to specifically attribute to the separator plate its function in the production of the PCB components so as to distinguish both structurally and functionally from the cited art. Hence, the claims are now clearly distinguished from the articles in the cited art, namely, to electrical terminals of Popplewell, the cookware of Ulam and to automobile sheets of other cited art.

It is, therefore, respectfully submitted that the cited art is remote from the claims and one skilled in the art would not look to the cited art to solve the problem of using a separator plate in a pressure arrangement for producing PCB components. The problems faced by the invention attributed to the separator plate of the application would not be faced by any of the products in the cited art and therefore, the cited art cannot provide any basis for the solution obtained by the claimed separator plate of the application. In other words, the solution for obtaining the separator plate of the invention would not be obtained by one skilled in the art when reviewing the non-analogous art in the field of cookware, electrical terminals, automobile sheets and the like.

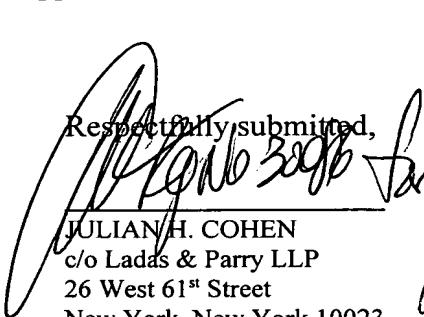
Claims 13-15 have been added to the application and further distinguish the invention from the cited art. In this respect, claim 13 is directed to apparatus for the production of printed circuit board components including the separator plate of the invention. It is clear that none of

the references cited by the Examiner are remotely applicable to such apparatus. Claim 14 is dependent from claim 13.

Claim 15 is a combination of claims 1, 8 and 9 and includes further clarification of the structure of the separator plate particularly adapted for use in the production of PCB components.

It is respectfully submitted that the above action and comments responds to the rejection advanced by the Examiner and places the application into condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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